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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 23 December 2016

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/71/716)*]

71/272. Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017

The General Assembly,

I

International Public Sector Accounting Standards

Recalling section IV of its resolution 60/283 of 7 July 2006, section V of its resolution 63/262 of 24 December 2008, its resolution 64/243 of 24 December 2009, its resolution 65/243 A of 24 December 2010, section II.B of its resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010, section I of its resolution 66/232 B of 21 June 2012, its resolution 66/246 of 24 December 2011, section IV of its resolution 67/246 of 24 December 2012, its resolution 68/246 of 27 December 2013, section II of its resolution 68/247 A of 27 December 2013, section I of its resolution 69/262 of 29 December 2014 and section I of its resolution 70/248 A of 23 December 2015,

Having considered the ninth progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

[1] A/71/226.
[2] A/71/542.

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II

Subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

Recalling section I of its resolution 68/247 B of 9 April 2014, section I of its resolution 69/274 A of 2 April 2015 and section IV of its resolution 70/248 A,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[4]

3. *Reaffirms* the high priority accorded to the work of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia;

4. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, as an exceptional measure, to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed 11 million United States dollars to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the use of commitment authority in the context of the next report;

5. *Encourages* all Member States to provide voluntary support for both the international and national components of the Extraordinary Chambers, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his intensive efforts to obtain additional voluntary contributions, including by broadening the donor base, for funding the future activities of the Extraordinary Chambers;

III

Request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone

Recalling its resolution 58/284 of 8 April 2004, section VII of its resolution 59/276 of 23 December 2004, section II of its resolution 59/294 of 22 June 2005, section XII of its resolution 65/259, section IX of its resolution 66/247 of 24 December 2011, section I of its resolution 67/246 and section VII of its resolution 70/248 A,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the use of the commitment authority and the request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone[5] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[6]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[6]

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[3] A/71/338.

[4] A/71/550.

[5] A/71/386, Corr.1 and 2.

[6] A/71/613.

3. *Reaffirms* the high priority accorded to the work of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone;

4. *Expresses serious concern* over the adverse financial situation facing the Residual Special Court, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to seek voluntary contributions, including through broadening the donor base and holding regular consultations with the key stakeholders, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-second session;

5. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed 2,800,000 dollars to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the Residual Special Court for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017 as a bridging financing mechanism, and requests the Secretary-General to report, at the main part of the seventy-second session, on the use of the commitment authority, including updated information on the sustainable future financing of the Court;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals continues to provide logistical and administrative support to the Residual Special Court, on a cost-reimbursable basis, as appropriate, without prejudice to the mandate of each of the entities, and to report, at the main part of the seventy-second session, on the modalities for the future support of the International Residual Mechanism for the Residual Special Court;

7. *Encourages* all Member States to provide voluntary support for the Residual Special Court;

IV

Seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific premises in Bangkok

Recalling section XII of its resolution 70/248 A,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposal for the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific premises in Bangkok[7] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[8]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,[8] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the continued efforts of the Government of Thailand, as the host country, in facilitating the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok;

4. *Welcomes* the positive steps taken towards engaging with the host country, and encourages the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to continue the discussions on cooperation with the host country in this regard;

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[7] A/71/333 and Corr.1.

[8] A/71/570.

5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to include local knowledge, technology and capacity throughout the implementation of the construction projects, as appropriate;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Office of Central Support Services of the Department of Management of the Secretariat, to take into account lessons learned and best practices from past construction and renovation projects, and in particular to draw from experience and know-how acquired from other capital projects;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 6 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to factor the results of the comprehensive review into all stages of the project to facilitate access to the premises and participation in meetings and other activities by persons with disabilities, with the aim of eliminating physical, communications and technical barriers to persons with disabilities at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, while ensuring compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;[9]

8. *Also recalls* paragraph 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to include detailed information on future rental income in the context of the next progress report;

9. *Stresses* the importance of continuing to include space optimization strategies in project planning, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to continue to look for opportunities to further increase space efficiencies through the application of flexible workplace strategies in a cost-effective manner, in close coordination with the Office of Central Support Services, taking into account local requirements;

10. *Also stresses* the importance of including energy efficiencies in project planning and implementation, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts within the scope of the project with a view to, inter alia, minimizing utility consumption and to report thereon in the context of future progress reports;

11. *Further stresses* the continued importance of close interaction and coordination between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Secretariat in New York, including the Office of Central Support Services, to ensure proper guidance, oversight and governance of the project and clear reporting lines;

12. *Stresses* the importance of governance, effective oversight, transparency and accountability in the management of the project to ensure that the objectives of the project are achieved within budget;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with providing oversight of the project and to include information on key findings in the context of the annual reports of the Office on its activities;

14. *Emphasizes* that the Office of Central Support Services should be actively involved in overseeing the project to ensure the central supervision of capital projects, including risk management and alignment with lessons learned;

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[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

15. *Also emphasizes* that contingency provisions approved for construction projects serve to provide necessary safeguards against unforeseen cost overruns during project implementation, underlines that the estimation of project contingencies should be based on the identification of risks associated with the different phases of the project, and requests that the estimated contingencies be separated from the base project cost for presentation purposes only;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 18 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard reaffirms that unused contingency funds may be carried over to subsequent years and reallocated as new risks emerge and older risks are retired, consistent with industry best practices, and that all remaining unused contingency funds shall be returned to Member States at the conclusion of the project;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain proactive in seeking both voluntary and in-kind contributions from Member States, in full compliance with all relevant rules and regulations of the Organization, and to provide detailed information on the matter in the context of the next progress report;

18. *Approves* option C for the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project, its proposed scope, time frame, implementation plan and estimated maximum cost of 40,019,000 dollars;

19. *Recalls* paragraph 24 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to provide updated cost estimates in his next report;

20. *Approves* the establishment of six temporary positions (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3 and 1 Local level based in Bangkok and 1 P-4 based at Headquarters) related to the dedicated project management team and project support staff, under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, with the cost of the P-4 position at Headquarters being equally shared with the Africa Hall project of the Economic Commission for Africa;

21. *Also approves* an appropriation in the amount of 877,400 dollars, comprising 505,600 dollars under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, and 371,800 dollars under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund;

22. *Further approves* the establishment of a multi-year construction-in-progress account for the expenditures of the project from 2017 until its completion;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that resource requirements at each stage of the project are based on a thorough review of actual and up-to-date needs on the ground and to provide detailed information in the context of future progress reports;

24. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to mitigate risks, including those associated with currency exchange rates, and to include relevant information in this regard in the context of future progress reports;

25. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at the main part of its seventy-second session, a progress report on the implementation of the project, outlining, inter alia, project expenditure and total costs;

V

Progress in the construction of new office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, and update on the renovation of conference facilities, including Africa Hall

Recalling its resolution 56/270 of 27 March 2002, section IX of its resolution 62/238 of 22 December 2007, section I of its resolution 63/263 of 24 December 2008, its resolution 64/243, section III of its resolution 65/259, section VII of its resolution 66/247, section II of its resolution 67/246, section III of its resolution 68/247 A, section V of its resolution 69/262 and section IX of its resolution 70/248 A,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[10] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[11]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[10]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[11]

3. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the Government of Ethiopia, as the host country, in facilitating the construction of additional office facilities and the renovation of the conference facilities, including Africa Hall, at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa;

4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to include local knowledge, technology and capacity throughout the implementation of construction and renovation projects, as appropriate;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to update Member States, through the Office of Central Support Services, on the progress of the construction projects;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the renovation of Africa Hall takes into account the preservation of its historical and architectural integrity, and in this regard stresses the need to involve key stakeholders, including the host Government and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in the implementation of the project;

7. *Stresses* the importance of including energy efficiencies in project planning and implementation, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts within the scope of the project with a view to, inter alia, minimizing utility consumption and to report thereon in the context of future progress reports;

8. *Recalls* paragraph 23 of section IX of its resolution 70/248 A, notes the revised business case for the visitors' centre, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to continue to refine the underlying assumptions and the calculation for the projected number of visitors to Africa Hall, to continue his efforts to conduct outreach activities and to report thereon in the context of future progress reports;

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[10] A/71/370.

[11] A/71/571.

9. *Also recalls* paragraph 37 (d) of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in the context of future progress reports, to include updated information on the costs and expected benefits as well as income generated by the visitors' centre;

10. *Notes* the delays resulting from, among other factors, the contract negotiations, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to make additional efforts to recover the time lost without undermining the quality, scope and time frame of the project;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take appropriate measures to mitigate potential risks and to monitor closely the Africa Hall renovation project in order to avoid any further delay;

12. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of section IX of its resolution 70/248 A, notes the delay in the recruitment of the project management team, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to expedite and complete recruitment for all remaining positions as a matter of priority and in strict compliance with relevant provisions governing recruitment in the Organization and to report thereon in the context of the next progress report;

13. *Stresses* the importance of governance, effective oversight, transparency and accountability in the management of the project to ensure that the objectives of the project are achieved within budget;

14. *Emphasizes* that the Office of Central Support Services should continue to be actively involved in overseeing the project to ensure the central supervision of capital projects, including risk management and alignment with lessons learned;

15. *Recalls* paragraph 17 of section IX of its resolution 70/248 A, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to establish a stakeholders committee and an advisory board in order to strengthen the governance for the proposed Africa Hall renovation project and to report thereon in the context of the next progress report;

16. *Emphasizes* the need for the Office of Internal Oversight Services to continue to provide oversight of the construction projects at the Commission, in particular the renovation of Africa Hall, and to continue to include information on key findings in the context of the annual reports of the Office on its activities;

17. *Also emphasizes* that contingency provisions approved for construction projects serve to provide necessary safeguards against unforeseen cost overruns during project implementation, underlines that the estimation of project contingencies should be based on the identification of risks associated with the different phases of the project, and requests that the estimated contingencies be separated from the base project cost for presentation purposes only;

18. *Decides* that unused contingency funds may be carried over to subsequent years and reallocated as new risks emerge and older risks are retired, consistent with industry best practices, and that all remaining unused contingency funds shall be returned to Member States at the conclusion of the project;

19. *Welcomes with appreciation* the voluntary contributions of the Governments of Ethiopia, the host country, Mali and Switzerland to Africa Hall;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain proactive in seeking both voluntary and in-kind contributions from Member States, in full compliance with all

relevant rules and regulations of the Organization, and to provide detailed information on the matter in the context of the next progress report;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that resource requirements at each stage of the project are based on a thorough review of actual and up-to-date needs on the ground and to provide detailed information in the context of future progress reports;

22. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at the main part of its seventy-second session, a progress report on the implementation of the construction projects and the renovation of the conference facilities, including Africa Hall and the visitors' centre, outlining, inter alia, project expenditure and total costs;

VI

Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials

Recalling its resolutions 37/240 of 21 December 1982, 40/257 A to C of 18 December 1985, 45/250 A to C of 21 December 1990 and 48/252 A to C of 26 May 1994, section VIII of its resolution 53/214 of 18 December 1998, its resolutions 55/249 of 12 April 2001, 56/285 of 27 June 2002, 57/289 of 20 December 2002 and 58/264 of 23 December 2003, section III of its resolution 59/282 of 13 April 2005, its resolutions 61/262 of 4 April 2007, 63/259 of 24 December 2008, 64/261 of 29 March 2010 and 65/258 of 24 December 2010 and its decisions 62/547 of 3 April 2008 and 69/553 A of 29 December 2014,

Recalling also Article 32 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly that govern the conditions of service and compensation for the members of the International Court of Justice and the judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice, President and judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia,[12] on conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda[13] and on the comprehensive review of the pension schemes for the members of the International Court of Justice and judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda,[14] the related reports of the Advisory Committee[15] and the letter

[12] A/71/201.

[13] A/68/188.

[14] A/66/617.

dated 1 February 2012 from the President of the International Court of Justice addressed to the President of the General Assembly,[16]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[12,13,14] and the letter dated 1 February 2012 from the President of the International Court of Justice addressed to the President of the General Assembly;[16]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee,[15] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 13 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[17] and decides to undertake the next comprehensive review at its seventy-fourth session;

4. *Takes note* of paragraphs 29 and 30 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[18] and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit for the consideration of the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-fourth session a comprehensive proposal on options for a pension scheme taking into account, inter alia, the following considerations:

(*a*) Possible new scheme scenarios, and those presented in the report of the Secretary-General,[13] if relevant;

(*b*) Projected estimated costs to the Organization for each scenario compared with the present pension scheme;

(*c*) The expected benefits and disadvantages of each scenario and the views and comments of relevant stakeholders;

as well as the integrity of the Statute of the International Court of Justice and other relevant statutory provisions, the universal character of the Court, principles of independence and equality and the unique character of membership of the Court;

VII

Revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in General Assembly resolution 70/290, entitled "High-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants"

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[19] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[20]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[19]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[20]

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[15] A/66/709, A/68/515 and Corr.1 and A/71/552.

[16] A/66/726.

[17] A/71/552.

[18] A/66/709.

[19] A/71/345.

[20] A/71/597.

VIII

Revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 under section 7, International Court of Justice

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[21] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[22]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[21]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,[22] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Takes note* of paragraphs 9 and 11 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and approves an additional appropriation in the amount of 120,000 dollars under section 7, International Court of Justice, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

IX

Financial implications relating to the administration of justice at the United Nations

Recalling its resolution 71/266 of 23 December 2016 on the administration of justice at the United Nations,

Decides to approve an additional amount of 1,570,700 dollars gross (1,464,600 dollars net), before recosting, reflecting an increase of 1,432,800 dollars under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, 31,800 dollars under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, and 106,100 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

X

Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2016

Having considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly[23] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[24]

1. *Recalls* its resolution 71/264 of 23 December 2016;

2. *Takes note* of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General;[23]

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[24]

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[21] A/71/560.

[22] A/71/635.

[23] A/C.5/71/3.

[24] A/71/564.

XI

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017

Having considered the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017[25] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[26]

Recalling its resolutions 70/248 A, 70/248 B of 1 April 2016, 70/248 C of 17 June 2016 and 70/249 A and B of 23 December 2015,

1. *Reaffirms* the budgetary process as approved in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987 and reaffirmed in subsequent resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the first performance report of the Secretary-General;[25]

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[26]

4. *Approves* a net increase of 51,955,700 dollars in the appropriation approved for the biennium 2016–2017 and a net increase of 1,187,300 dollars in the estimates of income for the biennium 2016–2017, to be apportioned among expenditure and income sections as indicated in the first performance report of the Secretary-General;

XII

Supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development

Recalling section XI of its resolution 70/248 A and section I of its resolution 70/248 C,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[27] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[28]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[27]

2. *Decides* to establish the following temporary posts:

(*a*) Within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva: under subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development, of section 12, Trade and development, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, four Economic Affairs Officers (1 P-5, 2 P-4 and 1 P-3);

(*b*) Within the Economic Commission for Africa: under subprogramme 4, Statistics, of section 18, Economic and social development in Africa, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, one Research Officer (P-3); and under subprogramme 9, Social development policy, one Data Specialist (National Professional Officer);

[25] A/71/576.

[26] A/71/680.

[27] A/71/534.

[28] A/71/632.

(*c*) Within the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: under Executive direction and management of section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, one Programme Officer (P-4) and one Environmental Affairs Officer (P-3);

(*d*) Within the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: under Executive direction and management of section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, one Economic Affairs Officer (P-3); under subprogramme 10, Planning of public administration, of section 21, one Economic Affairs Officer (P-4); and under subprogramme 11, Statistics, of section 21, one Statistical Affairs Officer (P-3);

(*e*) Within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat: under subprogramme 4, Statistics, of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, two Senior Statisticians (P-5); and under subprogramme 9, Financing for development, of section 9, one Chief of Unit (P-5) and two Economic Affairs Officers (P-3 and P-4);

3. *Also decides* to approve the requirements for the strengthening of the regular programme of technical cooperation in the amount of 5 million dollars for 2017 under section 23, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect, in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, an increase of 5 million dollars under section 23, Regular programme of technical cooperation;

5. *Decides* to appropriate 6,142,600 dollars in relation to expenditures in 2016 under the commitment authority approved by the General Assembly in section XI of its resolution 70/248 A;

6. *Also decides* to appropriate 319,000 dollars under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, for 2017;

7. *Further decides* to appropriate the amount of 957,100 dollars for 2017 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, 407,600 dollars under section 12, Trade and development, 95,700 dollars under section 18, Economic and social development in Africa, 148,000 dollars under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, and 195,200 dollars under section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

8. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 210,100 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, for 2017, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

XIII

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during 2016

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General[29] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[30]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;[29]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,[30] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Approves* the establishment of six temporary posts, effective from 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2030, including four temporary posts (1 P-4, 2 P-3 and 1 Local level) under section 22, Economic and social development in Western Asia and two temporary posts (P-4) under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

4. *Also approves* an appropriation amounting to 3,428,200 dollars, comprising 319,000 dollars under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, 597,000 dollars under section 9, Economic and social affairs, 488,600 dollars under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, 130,000 dollars under section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 1,893,600 dollars under section 22, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund;

5. *Further approves* the amount of 57,100 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

XIV

Enterprise resource planning project, Umoja

Recalling section II of its resolution 60/283, section II of its resolution 63/262, its resolution 64/243, section II.A of its resolution 65/259, its resolution 66/246, section III of its resolution 66/263 of 21 June 2012, section III of its resolution 67/246, its resolution 68/246, sections IV and VI of its resolution 69/274 A and section XVII of its resolution 70/248 A,

Having considered the eighth progress report of the Secretary-General on the enterprise resource planning project,[31] the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the fifth annual progress report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the United Nations enterprise resource planning system[32] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[33]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[31] and the note by the Secretary-General;[32]

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[29] A/71/401 and Add.1.

[30] A/71/633.

[31] A/71/390.

[32] A/71/180.

[33] A/71/628.

2. *Also takes note* of the findings of the report of the Board of Auditors,[12] and endorses the recommendations contained therein;

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,[13] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

4. *Recognizes* the progress made in the implementation of Umoja since the previous progress report, and the effort of staff and managers in the implementation of Umoja Foundation and Extension 1 to date;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor key milestones and the overall timeline for the implementation of Umoja by identifying and proactively managing current as well as any emerging key risks to the achievement of the project's objectives and full implementation by December 2018, as approved by the General Assembly in section III of its resolution 67/246 and as further outlined in the Secretary-General's eighth progress report;

6. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that lessons learned from previous deployments continue to be fully taken into account in preparing future roll-outs in order to ensure smoother deployments and avoid extensive stabilization efforts that would result in further delays, cost escalation and other risks, and encourages the Secretary-General to incorporate such lessons learned in his planning and preparations for future phases of the project;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General in his roll-out plan for the implementation of Umoja to conduct a thorough and objective assessment of the Organization's readiness for business change in order to avoid unforeseen impacts and unnecessary additional post-implementation reviews that could lead to deviations from the project's plans, cost projections and expected benefits;

8. *Reiterates* that the successful implementation of Umoja requires the full support and commitment of senior management, as well as close and continuous engagement with key stakeholders, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure this through performance management and accountability mechanisms, especially at senior levels;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to strengthen in-house capacity and expertise on the enterprise resource planning system and to develop, as a matter of priority, a detailed action plan to ensure the transfer of knowledge from consultants to programme and project staff, ensuring that knowledge acquired is maintained within the Organization, and reducing dependency on and resource requirements for contractual services, which represent a large proportion of project costs, and to provide detailed information thereon in the context of his next report;

10. *Regrets* that inadequate training prior to deployment contributed to serious problems and delays in each phase of the Umoja project, notes the steps taken thus far to address gaps in training and in this regard stresses the importance of effective and high-quality training for the successful implementation of Umoja, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that senior managers adopt a comprehensive and sustained approach to training and capacity development in their work units;

11. *Also regrets* the delays in the planning and implementation of Umoja Extension 2 and the additional funding requirements, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to implement the full scope of the project as set forth in the eighth progress report, without further delay and cost escalation, and to provide to the General Assembly detailed information on the implementation of all of the

remaining Umoja Extension 2 functions and processes at the main part of its seventy-second session;

12. *Recalls* paragraph 32 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard reiterates the need for strong project planning and management in order to ensure that the Umoja project remains on track without further disruption and delay;

13. *Notes* that insufficient progress has been made in the development of a benefit realization plan, and requests the Secretary-General to accelerate the development of such a plan, taking fully into account the relevant recommendations of the Board of Auditors, and to report thereon in the next progress report, without prejudice to established budgetary procedures and the prerogative of the Fifth Committee, which is entrusted with responsibility for administrative and budgetary matters;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in developing realistic benefit realization plans for implementing entities, to use a common methodology and provide details on both qualitative and quantitative benefits, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-second session;

15. *Recalls* paragraphs 37, 46 and 55 of the report of the Advisory Committee, notes that the Umoja project represents one of the largest and highest-cost business transformation initiatives undertaken by the Organization, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-second session an updated business case for the Umoja project, including an analysis of the direct and indirect costs and benefits, taking into account all the relevant recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive briefing to the General Assembly on the progress of the Umoja project, including but not limited to details on Umoja Extension 2, the updated business case for the project and other relevant issues at the second part of the resumed seventy-first session of the Assembly;

17. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make every effort to eliminate cost overruns through efficiency measures and sound project management and to avoid any further upward revision of the budget during the remaining project schedule, up to the time at which Umoja is fully deployed;

18. *Recalls* paragraph 44 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and regrets that little progress has been made to respond to the repeated requests of the General Assembly to maintain a detailed accounting of the indirect costs absorbed by departments or to conduct an analysis of the total cost of ownership of the Umoja project, which is a key input for informed decision-making on investments, and in this regard regrets that the lack of information on the effective implementation costs of the project reflects weakness in the governance, leadership and accountability of the Umoja project;

19. *Approves* the net additional revised requirements for 2016–2017 of 26,811,400 dollars, as presented in the eighth progress report, based on the mainstreaming, reorganization and reprofiling of resources presented in section VI of the report;

20. *Takes note* of paragraphs 56 and 57 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to absorb 4,021,800 dollars within existing resources under section 29, Management and support services, prioritizing section 29A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

22. *Notes* that resource requirements in the amount of 16,623,000 dollars will be included in the subsequent requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018;

23. *Also notes* that requirements in the amount of 6,166,600 dollars will be funded from extrabudgetary resources in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017;

XV

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-first, thirty-second and thirty-third sessions and twenty-fourth special session

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[34] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[35]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[34]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[35]

3. *Approves* the establishment of 10 posts (1 P-5, 3 P-4 and 6 P-3) under section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, with effect from 1 January 2017;

4. *Also approves* an additional appropriation, in the amount of 14,784,500 dollars, comprising 2,481,300 dollars under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, 12,259,500 dollars under section 24, Human rights, 8,400 dollars under section 28, Public information, and 35,300 dollars under section 29F, Administration, Geneva, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

5. *Further approves* the amount of 147,600 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

XVI

Progress on the implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters

Recalling section V of its resolution 67/246, section III of its resolution 67/254 A of 12 April 2013, section IV of its resolution 68/247 B and section VII of its resolution 69/274 A and its decision 70/553 B of 1 April 2016,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[36] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[37]

[34] A/71/623.
[35] A/71/688.
[36] A/70/708.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[36]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,[37] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 6 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to analyse the lessons learned from the outcomes of the pilot programme and to report thereon in the context of the next progress report;

4. *Notes* that flexible workplace strategies in the United Nations should be aimed at improving the overall productivity and efficiency of the Organization, as well as the staff workplace environment;

5. *Recalls* paragraphs 6 and 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to assess in detail the impact of the flexible workplace pilot on productivity and provide reliable qualitative and quantitative benefit indicators as well as other factors for the improvement of overall productivity and staff well-being, and to report thereon in the context of the next progress report;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full compliance with its decisions and full cooperation with the implementation plan for the project, while meeting the needs of staff and ensuring their well-being and productivity;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 29 of the report of the Advisory Committee and regrets the wide variations in projected costs for the project, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to vigorously revisit the cost projections for the entire project and to report thereon to the General Assembly in the context of the next progress report;

8. *Urges* the Secretary-General to keep the project under scrutiny in all relevant aspects, including the scope, schedule, costs and financial benefits, to ensure that they are in line with the mandates provided by the General Assembly, and to report thereon at the main part of the seventy-second session in the context of the next progress report;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly no later than at the main part of its seventy-second session a detailed and realistic implementation plan for the full scope of the project;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue with the implementation of flexible workplace strategies in New York in 2017, with a maximum number of 140 staff per floor, and to report thereon at the main part of the seventy-second session, without prejudice to any decision by the General Assembly on the revised implementation plan for the full scope of the project;

11. *Decides* that flexible workplace strategies shall not be implemented in rental properties where the rental contracts are due to expire without prospect of renewal;

12. *Emphasizes* the central coordination and oversight role of the Office of Central Support Services in the management of rental properties;

13. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to seek complementarities between flexible workplace strategies and flexible working arrangements, and in this regard requests him, under the guidance of the interdisciplinary working group, to provide information on arrangements for staff to work in remote locations,

[37] A/70/7/Add.45.

including from home, with an emphasis on addressing the requirements of staff with special needs, including those with disabilities, the elderly, expecting parents and parents with newborn or young children;

14. *Decides* that flexible working arrangements shall be an integral part of all flexible workplace strategies, and requests the Secretary-General to update his bulletin on flexible working arrangements;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the detailed and realistic implementation plan includes linkages to ongoing reform initiatives, such as the full deployment of the Umoja enterprise resource planning project and the study on long-term accommodation needs at United Nations Headquarters;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue ensuring that the implementation of flexible workplace strategies takes into account the needs of language staff in order to continue to ensure that the services provided to Member States meet the highest standard of quality;

17. *Decides* that the flexible workplace strategy shall be included in future reports of the strategic capital review;

18. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to spend 10 million dollars in 2017 for the application of flexible workplace in the Secretariat Building, to be funded from within existing resources;

19. *Approves* the continuation of three temporary positions (1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level)) for the project team;

20. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 470,200 dollars under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

21. *Also decides* to appropriate the amount of 63,000 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

XVII

Global service delivery model for the United Nations Secretariat

Recalling section III of its resolution 67/246, paragraph 13 of section VII of its resolution 69/262, paragraph 19 of its resolution 69/273 of 2 April 2015 and section XIX of its resolution 70/248 A,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[38] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[39]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[38]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,[39] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 8 of section XIX of its resolution 70/248 A, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that budget proposals related to qualitative

[38] A/71/417.

[39] A/71/666.

and quantitative benefits of the development and implementation of the global service delivery model are presented with a clear benefit realization plan;

4. *Also recalls* paragraph 50 (c) of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to submit for the consideration of the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-second session a report on the global service delivery model containing a comprehensive and fully developed proposal that continues to take into account the views of all stakeholders;

5. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring that the global service delivery model fully takes into account lessons learned and best practices of all ongoing business transformation initiatives so as to maximize benefits and avoid possible duplication and overlap, and requests the Secretary-General to provide in his detailed proposal information on the efforts to ensure such coherence, including information on the use of common infrastructure and resources;

6. *Also reiterates* that the global service delivery model should be limited to the provision of administrative support services and that the proposal should take into account the use of all existing United Nations infrastructure, including those away from Headquarters;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his next report concrete measures to ensure that offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions, offices and departments retain their full decision-making authority so as to effectively execute their mandates;

8. *Takes note* of paragraphs 44, 45, 49, 50 (b) and 51 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

9. *Decides* to establish a dedicated global service delivery model project team comprising six positions: one D-1, one P-5 and four P-4;

Programme budget

10. *Approves* an appropriation in the amount of 210,100 dollars under section 29A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, representing the regular budget share until 31 December 2017, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2016–2017;

Support account for peacekeeping operations

11. *Notes* that resource requirements in the amount of 868,500 dollars will be included in the subsequent requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018;

Extrabudgetary resources

12. *Notes* that requirements in the amount of 322,200 dollars will be funded from extrabudgetary resources in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017;

XVIII

Strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva

Recalling section XI of its resolution 64/243, section VII of its resolution 66/247, section V of its resolution 68/247 A, sections III and VII of its resolution 69/262 and section X of its resolution 70/248 A,

Having considered the third annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva[40] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[41]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[40]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,[41] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Welcomes* the continued support of the Government of Switzerland for the construction project in Geneva;

4. *Reaffirms* the proposed project scope, schedule and estimated cost of the strategic heritage plan in the maximum amount of 836,500,000 Swiss francs for the period from 2014 to 2023;

5. *Stresses* the importance of effective governance, oversight, transparency and accountability in the management of the project to ensure that the project objectives are achieved within budget;

6. *Recalls* paragraphs 7 and 8 of section X of its resolution 70/248 A, and requests the Secretary-General, in the context of the next progress report, to include information on how the recommendations and observations of the Advisory Board are incorporated into the overall management and strategic oversight structure of the project;

7. *Emphasizes* that the Advisory Board shall be independent and impartial, with its membership reflecting a wide geographical representation while ensuring the required expertise;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the strategic heritage plan is fully completed within the project scope, schedule and overall cost approved in its resolution 70/248 A;

9. *Reiterates* that space optimization is one of the key objectives of the project, and stresses that the implementation of flexible workplace strategies is an important change management initiative requiring visible senior management sponsorship and leadership and staff engagement;

10. *Notes* the preparations for the implementation of flexible workplace strategies, and urges the Secretary-General to incorporate his conclusions and findings into the design of the full project, including the potential for enhanced space utilization, taking into account the constraints in the existing buildings;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to gather data on building occupancy utilization throughout the entire site of the Palais des Nations in order to increase space efficiencies above the 700 additional spaces

[40] A/71/403 and Corr.1.

[41] A/71/622.

already identified, including by setting optimized space utilization targets, and to report on the concrete steps taken in this regard in the context of the next progress report;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the application of flexible workplace strategies at the Palais des Nations takes into account staff welfare and productivity, the physical characteristics and the specific heritage preservation needs, as well as ongoing business transformation initiatives, in a cost-effective manner;

13. *Welcomes* the development of an indoor accessibility master plan, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the implementation of the strategic heritage plan takes into account measures to eliminate physical, communications and technical barriers to persons with disabilities, taking into account relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, while ensuring compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[9] and to report on this subject in future annual progress reports;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to avoid budget increases through sound project management practices and to ensure that the strategic heritage plan is completed within the approved budget and the envisaged time schedule;

15. *Recalls* paragraph 30 of the report of the Advisory Committee, notes the increased provision for contingencies, and reiterates that such contingencies should be based on the identification of risks associated with the different phases of the project;

16. *Also recalls* paragraph 31 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the provision for contingencies under tight scrutiny and to include complete and consolidated information, including justifications in respect of any increase or decrease of this provision, in the context of the next progress report;

17. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take advantage of the loan package offered by the host country and to ensure its expeditious disbursement in close coordination with the host State in the course of the project, and requests the Secretary-General to present a detailed loan repayment plan in the context of the next progress report;

18. *Decides* to continue to use the multi-year construction-in-progress account established within the regular budget for expenditures related to the strategic heritage plan in 2017;

19. *Also decides* to revert to the establishment of an assessment scheme and the currency of appropriation and assessment for the strategic heritage plan at the main part of its seventy-second session, and requests the Secretary-General to provide updated detailed information on these issues;

20. *Further decides* to revert to the establishment of the multi-year special account for the strategic heritage plan at the main part of its seventy-second session;

21. *Recalls* paragraph 22 of section X of its resolution 70/248 A and paragraph 38 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to avoid negative interest charges being applied to the Organization's currency holdings;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take appropriate measures to mitigate risks, including those associated with currency exchange rates, and to include relevant information in this regard in the context of future progress reports;

23. *Notes* the efforts undertaken to pursue opportunities to valorize real estate owned by the Organization in Geneva, and urges the Secretary-General to

expedite his efforts to optimize the potential income to be generated to reduce the overall assessment on Member States for the project, while preserving the long-term interests of the United Nations in Geneva, through long-term community-oriented leasing arrangements;

24. *Recalls* paragraph 45 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to provide detailed information on land valorization tasks in the next progress report;

25. *Appreciates* the existing voluntary contributions received from Member States to finance the strategic heritage plan, and requests the Secretary-General to remain proactive in seeking both voluntary and in-kind contributions from Member States, as well as donations by private entities, in full compliance with all relevant rules and regulations of the Organization, in order to reduce the overall assessments on Member States;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore the possibility of attracting additional United Nations entities to be accommodated at the renovated Palais des Nations, and requests him to propose ways of factoring future rental income in the overall scheme of financing of the strategic heritage plan project in the next progress report;

27. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that works of art, masterpieces and other gifts are handled appropriately during the design and renovation stages of the strategic heritage plan at the Palais des Nations, and also requests him to cooperate with those Member States that wish to take care of their gifts of works of art, masterpieces and other items;

28. *Approves* the establishment of one new position of Procurement Officer (P-4), effective 1 January 2017;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that resource requirements at each stage of the project are based on a thorough review of actual and up-to-date needs on the ground, and requests him to provide detailed information thereon in the context of future progress reports;

30. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 10,931,800 dollars (equivalent to 10,494,500 Swiss francs) for 2017, under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at the main part of its seventy-second session, a progress report on the implementation of the project, outlining, inter alia, project expenditure and total cost;

XIX

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Recalling section IV of its resolution 69/262, section II of its resolution 69/274 B of 25 June 2015, section XX of its resolution 70/248 A and section V of its resolution 70/248 B,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General[42] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee,[43]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;[42]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee,[43] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Reaffirms its commitment* to consider the review of the arrangement on the funding and backstopping of the special political missions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and expresses its commitment to consider this matter, with a view to making a decision, without prejudging the outcome, no later than at the main part of its seventy-second session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present future budget proposals for the special political missions no later than the last week of October;

5. *Expresses concern* about the growth in the number of senior-level positions in special political missions;

6. *Takes note* of paragraph 40 of the report of the Advisory Committee;[44]

Thematic cluster I: special and personal envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar

7. *Notes* that the proposed budget for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar is no longer mandated, and decides not to approve the funding requested;

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus

8. *Takes note* of paragraphs 14 and 15 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[44] and decides to establish two positions: one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and one Administrative Assistant (Field Service);

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria

9. *Takes note* of paragraphs 11, 31 and 40 of the report of the Advisory Committee;[44]

10. *Recalls* paragraphs 19 and 25 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to abolish seven positions that have been vacant for two years or more;

11. *Also recalls* paragraphs 21 to 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to approve an additional 27 positions, 9 in Damascus, comprising two Political Affairs Officers (P-3), one Interpreter (P-3) for servicing the meetings of the Special Envoy and six Local level positions (1 Language Translation Assistant, 1 Administrative Assistant, 1 Assistant to coordinate with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, 1 Team Assistant to provide administrative support to the Logistics Officer, 1 Information Technology Assistant to provide technical support on relevant hardware and systems applications and 1 Telecommunications Technician), and 18 in Geneva;

[42] A/71/365 and Add.1–7 and Add.7/Corr.1.

[43] A/71/595 and Add.1–7.

[44] A/71/595/Add.1.

12. *Further recalls* paragraph 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to establish two positions, one for a Human Resources Officer (P-4) in the Field Personnel Division of the Department of Field Support in New York and one Chief Human Resources Officer (P-4) in Geneva;

13. *Recalls* paragraphs 23 and 26 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

14. *Takes note* of paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen

15. *Decides* not to establish the positions listed in annex I to the present resolution;

16. *Also decides* to reduce the resources for air transportation for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen by 30 per cent;

17. *Takes note* of paragraph 14 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[45] and decides not to approve the establishment of a Senior Electoral Affairs Officer position (P-5);

18. *Recalls* paragraphs 15, 17, 19, 21 to 23 and 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

19. *Takes note* of paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to reduce the proposed requirements under official travel by 20 per cent;

20. *Decides* to apply a 42 per cent vacancy rate for new Field Service, General Service, National Professional Officer and Local level positions in the mission;

21. *Takes note* of paragraphs 18, 25, 52 and 53 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to establish the following positions: one Deputy Head of Mission (at the level of Assistant Secretary-General) and four associated staff members (2 P-4, 1 Field Service and 1 Local level), one Principal Security Sector Reform Officer (D-1) and one Chief of Mission Support (D-1), and decides to establish one Chief of Mission Support (P-5);

22. *Decides* not to approve the proposed reclassification of the Director (D-2) to Deputy Head of Mission (Assistant Secretary-General);

23. *Also decides* not to approve the proposed establishment of the Chief of Mission Support position at the D-1 level, and decides instead to approve the establishment of the Chief of Mission Support position at the P-5 level;

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi

24. *Notes* that there are multiple United Nations entities involved in addressing conflict prevention and mediation in the region, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to bring about synergies and efficiencies;

25. *Recognizes* the important role played by the regional and subregional actors in conflict prevention and mediation, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure United Nations partnership, cooperation and coordination with and support for those actors, in accordance with the relevant mandates;

[45] A/71/595/Add.6.

26. *Commends* the work of the East African Community in facilitating mediation under the Inter-Burundi Dialogue to address the political challenges, supports the need for continued ownership by the East African Community of this process, and encourages the international community to continue to provide support, as appropriate;

27. *Stresses* that it is important that the United Nations and its staff implement the given mandate by strictly adhering to the principles of impartiality and observe the highest level of professionalism;

28. *Decides* to establish for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017 the 33 positions under cluster I listed in annex II to the present resolution;

29. *Also decides*, for 2017, to maintain the level of resources for the Office at the same level as for 2016;

Thematic cluster II: sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels

Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)

30. *Recalls* paragraph 15 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[46] and decides to apply a 30 per cent vacancy rate for the positions established to support the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015);

31. *Reiterates* the decision contained in paragraph 48 of its resolution 70/247 of 23 December 2015, and decides to reduce the resources for travel of staff by 15 per cent;

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

32. *Takes note* of paragraph 20 of the report of the Advisory Committee;[46]

33. *Decides* to establish a Legal Affairs Officer position (P-4);

Thematic cluster III: United Nations offices, peacebuilding support offices, integrated offices and commissions

34. *Takes note* of paragraphs 23, 28, 47 and 72 of the report of the Advisory Committee;[47]

United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the next budget submission, to include detailed information on the efficiency and effectiveness of mandate delivery arising from the merging of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel;

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

36. *Decides* to establish, in the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, one Political Affairs Officer position (P-4) to strengthen coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and one Rule of Law Officer position (P-4);

[46] A/71/595/Add.2.

[47] A/71/595/Add.3.

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

37. *Takes note* of paragraph 25 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[47] and decides to establish two Political Affairs Officer positions (P-4);

38. *Recalls* paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee and paragraph 23 of section XX of General Assembly resolution 70/248 A, and decides to establish eight Radio Operator posts (general temporary assistance) for six months;

39. *Takes note* of paragraph 72 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to approve 618,560 dollars for consultancy for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia in 2017;

40. *Also takes note* of paragraph 72 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to approve 1,242,430 dollars for official travel for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia in 2017;

41. *Further takes note* of paragraph 72 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to approve 9,120,400 dollars for air transportation for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia in 2017;

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider holding consultations with Government of Libya on the Government-provided personnel in the security and military sectors;

43. *Recalls* paragraphs 44, 55 and 57 of the report of the Advisory Committee;[47]

44. *Decides* not to establish the positions listed in annex III to the present resolution;

45. *Takes note* of paragraph 33 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to apply a 25 per cent delayed deployment rate to the United Nations Guard Unit and to adjust the non-post resources of the Mission accordingly;

46. *Also takes note* of paragraph 58 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to establish a total budget for air transportation of 4,127,000 dollars;

47. *Decides* to apply a 50 per cent vacancy rate for new Field Service, General Service, National Professional Officer and Local level positions in the Mission;

United Nations Mission in Colombia

48. *Recalls* paragraph 4 of the report of the Secretary-General,[48] and recognizes the contribution of unarmed observers to the establishment of the Mission, primarily from member countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States;

49. *Also recalls* paragraphs 15 and 18 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[49] and decides to approve the establishment of one Political Affairs Officer position (P-4) and one Planning and Programme Officer position (P-3);

[48] A/71/365/Add.7 and Corr.1.

[49] A/71/595/Add.7.

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

50. *Recalls* paragraph 25 of the report of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan[50] and paragraph 27 of the report of the Committee on the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq,[51] continues to note with concern the lack of clarity with regard to the roles of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq support offices for Kuwait and the Kuwait Joint Support Office, regrets the failure of clarification in the current report of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to undertake a further review of the structures, functions and capacity of the offices in order to ensure their services and accountability to both missions and to report thereon in the context of the next budget submission;

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

51. *Notes with concern* the continued high cost of bank transaction fees for the Mission, and requests the Secretary-General, in the next report to the General Assembly, to provide further information on possible cost savings that could be achieved through a change of arrangements;

52. *Takes note* of paragraphs 19, 27 and 34 of the report of the Advisory Committee;[50]

53. *Also takes note* of paragraph 19 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to approve four new positions (1 P-2, 2 National Professional Officers and 1 Local level) in the Mission;

54. *Notes* the changes to the regional and provisional offices, and decides to abolish 10 Local level positions;

55. *Decides* not to approve the establishment of new United Nations Volunteer positions in the Mission;

56. *Also decides* to apply a vacancy rate of 14 per cent for international staff, 10 per cent for national staff, 17 per cent for military personnel, 20 per cent for police personnel, 22 per cent for United Nations Volunteers and 5 per cent for Local level staff;

57. *Takes note* of paragraph 30 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to approve 131,100 dollars for consultancy;

58. *Also takes note* of paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to increase the flight hours for fixed-wing aircraft;

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

59. *Notes* the cost-sharing arrangements between the Mission and the United Nations country team for security arrangements in Iraq, as well as other common services, and requests the Secretary-General to report on steps taken by the Mission to ensure full and timely reimbursement by the United Nations country team;

60. *Expresses its belief* that the provision of laundry and other services to international staff on a non-reimbursement basis is not an appropriate use of

[50] A/71/595/Add.4.

[51] A/71/595/Add.5.

Mission funds, and decides to reduce the amount of resources authorized for other supplies, services and equipment by 5 per cent;

61. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen the Mission's national staffing complement, whenever appropriate;

62. *Recalls* paragraph 18 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[51] and decides not to approve the abolishment of 11 national positions (2 National Professional Officers and 9 Local level);

63. *Takes note* of paragraphs 21, 25 and 28 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

64. *Also takes note* of paragraph 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to establish the position of Associate Conduct and Discipline Officer (P-2);

65. *Further takes note* of paragraph 25 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to approve 200,000 dollars for consultancy;

66. *Approves* the budgets in the amount of 639,527,300 dollars for the 33 special political missions authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council and 741,400 dollars for the share of special political missions in the budget of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, for the biennium 2016–2017;

67. *Also approves* a charge of 548,525,100 dollars (net of staff assessment) against the equivalent amount of the undistributed balance in the provision for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

68. *Decides* to appropriate, under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213, an additional amount of 101,831,500 dollars under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, after taking into account the estimated overexpenditure in 2016 amounting to 10,087,900 dollars;

69. *Also decides* to appropriate an amount of 4,694,500 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

XX

Contingency fund

Notes that a balance of 10,277,700 dollars remains in the contingency fund.

68th plenary meeting
23 December 2016

Annex I

Positions not to be established under thematic cluster I in the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen

Number	*Category/level*	*Title*
Office of the Chief of Staff[a]		
1	D-1	Chief of Staff
1	P-5	Senior Planning Officer
1	P-3	Coordination Officer
1	Field Service	Programme Assistant
1	Local level	Language Assistant
Office of the Special Envoy (New York)		
1	P-4	Political Affairs Officer
1	General Service (Other level)	Administrative Assistant
Office of the Deputy Head of Mission[a]		
1	P-4	Legal Officer
1	P-4	Political Affairs Officer
1	Field Service	Administrative Assistant
1	Local level	Team Assistant
Political Affairs Section		
1	P-5	Senior Electoral Affairs Officer
Security Sector Section		
1	D-1	Principal Security Sector Reform Officer
1	P-3	Liaison Officer
Finance and budget		
1	Local level	Finance and Budget Assistant
Human resources		
1	Local level	Human Resources Assistant
Property management		
1	Field Service	Claims Assistant
Backstopping		
1	P-4	Human Resources Officer
Total: 18		

[a] Proposed new sections not approved; related staff will be redeployed to the Office of the Special Envoy.

Annex II

Positions to be established under thematic cluster I in the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi

Number	*Category/level*	*Title*	*Location*
Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General			
1	Under-Secretary-General	Special Adviser to the Secretary-General	New York
1	P-5	Special Assistant	New York
1	P-5	Senior Political Affairs Officer	New York
1	P-4	Political Affairs Officer	New York
1	General Service (Other level)	Personal Assistant	New York
Mediation Support Team			
1	P-5	Senior Political Affairs Officer	Nairobi
1	P-4	Political Affairs Officer	Nairobi
Office of the Head of Office			
1	D-2	Head of Office	Bujumbura
1	P-4	Public Information Officer	Bujumbura
2	National Professional Officer	Media Officers	Bujumbura
1	Field Service	Administrative Assistant	Bujumbura
Dialogue Support Unit			
1	D-1	Principal Political Affairs Officer	Bujumbura
1	P-5	Senior Information Analyst	Bujumbura
1	P-5	Senior Political Affairs Officer	Bujumbura
1	P-4	Political Affairs Officer	Bujumbura
1	P-3	Political Affairs Officer	Bujumbura
1	D-1	Principal Security Sector Reform Officer	Bujumbura
1	P-4	Rule of Law Officer	Bujumbura
Mission Support Unit			
1	P-5	Chief of Mission Support	Bujumbura
1	P-3	Logistics Officer	Bujumbura
1	Field Service	Facilities Management Assistant	Bujumbura
1	Field Service	Administrative Officer	Bujumbura
1	Field Service	Information Systems Officer	Bujumbura
1	Local level	Administrative Assistant	Bujumbura
1	Local level	Supply/Logistics Assistant	Bujumbura
3	Local level	Drivers	Bujumbura
Staff Security and Safety Unit			
1	P-4	Chief Security Officer	Bujumbura
3	Field Service	Security Officers	Bujumbura
		Total: 33	

Annex III

Positions not to be established in the United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Number	*Category/level*	*Title*
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General		
1	P-3	Special Assistant
1	United Nations Volunteer	Special Assistant
Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Political		
1	Assistant Secretary-General	Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Political
1	P-4	Special Assistant
1	Field Service	Administrative Assistant
1	United Nations Volunteer	Administrative Assistant
Office of the Chief of Staff		
1	P-4	Legal Affairs Officer
1	Local level	Administrative Assistant
Office of the Senior Military Adviser		
1	P-4	Special Assistant
Joint Mission Analysis Cell		
1	P-3	Geographic Information Systems Officer
Women's empowerment		
1	National Officer	Gender Affairs Officer
Human rights, rule of law		
1	P-3	Human Rights Officer
1	Field Service	Administrative Assistant
1	United Nations Volunteer	Human Rights Officer
Security Institutions Division		
1	P-5	Senior Police Adviser
1	P-3	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Officer
1	United Nations Volunteer	Security Sector Reform Officer
Security Section		
1	P-3	Coordination Officer
7	Field Service	Security Officer
3	Local level	Security Assistant
Mission support		
1	P-3	Logistics Officer, New York
1	P-3	Human Resources Officer
2	Field Service	Warehouse/Distribution Clerk
3	Local level	Warehouse/Distribution Clerk
2	United Nations Volunteers	Air Operations Officer
Total staffing reduction: 37 positions		

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 January 2017

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 134

Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on 23 December 2016

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/71/716)*]

71/273. Programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017

A

REVISED BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016–2017

The General Assembly

1. *Resolves* that, for the biennium 2016–2017, the amount of 5,408,719,500 United States dollars appropriated by it in its resolutions 70/249 A of 23 December 2015, 70/248 B of 1 April 2016 and 70/248 C of 17 June 2016 shall be adjusted by budget appropriations of 205,442,500 dollars, as follows:

Section		*Amount approved in resolutions 70/249 A to C and 70/248 B and C*	*Increase/ (decrease)*	*Revised appropriation*
		(United States dollars)		
	Part I. *Overall policymaking, direction and coordination*			
1.	Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	117 428 000	(472 500)	116 955 500
2.	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	618 122 200	12 819 100	630 941 300
	Subtotal, part I	**735 550 200**	**12 346 600**	**747 896 800**
	Part II. *Political affairs*			
3.	Political affairs	1 240 398 000	103 061 200	1 343 459 200
4.	Disarmament	24 950 700	(81 800)	24 868 900
5.	Peacekeeping operations	109 624 000	24 400	109 648 400
6.	Peaceful uses of outer space	7 162 300	60 300	7 222 600
	Subtotal, part II	**1 382 135 000**	**103 064 100**	**1 485 199 100**

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Section		*Amount approved in resolutions 70/249 A to C and 70/248 B and C*	*Increase/ (decrease)*	*Revised appropriation*
		(United States dollars)		
	Part III. *International justice and law*			
7.	International Court of Justice	45 975 700	(161 000)	45 814 700
8.	Legal affairs	48 845 900	12 693 700	61 539 600
	Subtotal, part III	**94 821 600**	**12 532 700**	**107 354 300**
	Part IV. *International cooperation for development*			
9.	Economic and social affairs	157 717 800	4 350 800	162 068 600
10.	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	10 912 500	(149 500)	10 763 000
11.	United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	16 798 300	(192 500)	16 605 800
12.	Trade and development	135 159 400	3 262 800	138 422 200
13.	International Trade Centre	35 697 300	1 394 500	37 091 800
14.	Environment	35 331 400	1 765 900	37 097 300
15.	Human settlements	20 806 800	1 267 600	22 074 400
16.	International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice	36 917 600	272 600	37 190 200
17.	UN-Women	15 256 400	(166 700)	15 089 700
	Subtotal, part IV	**464 597 500**	**11 805 500**	**476 403 000**
	Part V. *Regional cooperation for development*			
18.	Economic and social development in Africa	153 650 300	(298 300)	153 352 000
19.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	94 646 200	694 000	95 340 200
20.	Economic development in Europe	64 870 900	1 067 600	65 938 500
21.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	105 299 700	1 583 000	106 882 700
22.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	69 369 400	666 900	70 036 300
23.	Regular programme of technical cooperation	54 763 400	4 668 600	59 432 000
	Subtotal, part V	**542 599 900**	**8 381 800**	**550 981 700**
	Part VI. *Human rights and humanitarian affairs*			
24.	Human rights	191 574 900	20 459 400	212 034 300
25.	International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees	82 204 900	3 157 700	85 362 600
26.	Palestine refugees	55 592 900	(455 600)	55 137 300
27.	Humanitarian assistance	34 725 900	191 000	34 916 900
	Subtotal, part VI	**364 098 600**	**23 352 500**	**387 451 100**

Section		*Amount approved in resolutions 70/249 A to C and 70/248 B and C*	*Increase/ (decrease)*	*Revised appropriation*
		(United States dollars)		
	Part VII. *Public information*			
28.	Public information	188 021 900	(460 200)	187 561 700
	Subtotal, part VII	**188 021 900**	**(460 200)**	**187 561 700**
	Part VIII. *Common support services*			
29A.	Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management	22 677 000	33 900	22 710 900
29B.	Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	35 043 500	(337 400)	34 706 100
29C.	Office of Human Resources Management	70 800 100	(511 800)	70 288 300
29D.	Office of Central Support Services	166 585 300	(55 900)	166 529 400
29E.	Office of Information and Communications Technology	98 461 800	(690 800)	97 771 000
29F.	Administration, Geneva	134 658 700	4 719 200	139 377 900
29G.	Administration, Vienna	33 204 200	826 600	34 030 800
29H.	Administration, Nairobi	28 157 300	1 248 400	29 405 700
	Subtotal, part VIII	**589 587 900**	**5 232 200**	**594 820 100**
	Part IX. *Internal oversight*			
30.	Internal oversight	40 213 800	(65 400)	40 148 400
	Subtotal, part IX	**40 213 800**	**(65 400)**	**40 148 400**
	Part X. *Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses*			
31.	Jointly financed administrative activities	11 448 200	55 400	11 503 600
32.	Special expenses	153 244 800	–	153 244 800
	Subtotal, part X	**164 693 000**	**55 400**	**164 748 400**
	Part XI. *Capital expenditures*			
33.	Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	97 091 100	12 684 800	109 775 900
	Subtotal, part XI	**97 091 100**	**12 684 800**	**109 775 900**
	Part XII. *Safety and security*			
34.	Safety and security	234 295 400	3 988 000	238 283 400
	Subtotal, part XII	**234 295 400**	**3 988 000**	**238 283 400**
	Part XIII. *Development Account*			
35.	Development Account	28 398 800	–	28 398 800
	Subtotal, part XIII	**28 398 800**	**–**	**28 398 800**

Section		Amount approved in resolutions 70/249 A to C and 70/248 B and C	Increase/ (decrease)	Revised appropriation
		(United States dollars)		
	Part XIV. *Staff assessment*			
36.	Staff assessment	482 614 800	12 524 500	495 139 300
	Subtotal, part XIV	**482 614 800**	**12 524 500**	**495 139 300**
	Total	**5 408 719 500**	**205 442 500**	**5 614 162 000**

68th plenary meeting
23 December 2016

B

Revised income estimates for the biennium 2016–2017

The General Assembly

1. *Resolves* that, for the biennium 2016–2017, the estimates of income of 531,885,700 United States dollars approved by it in its resolutions 70/249 A of 23 December 2015, 70/248 B of 1 April 2016 and 70/248 C of 17 June 2016 shall be increased by 6,824,800 dollars, as follows:

Income section		Amount approved in resolutions 70/249 A to C and 70/248 B and C	Increase/(decrease)	Revised estimates
		(United States dollars)		
1.	Income from staff assessment	486 952 700	12 586 600	499 539 300
	Total, income section 1	**486 952 700**	**12 586 600**	**499 539 300**
2.	General income	41 226 700	415 600	41 642 300
3.	Services to the public	3 706 300	(6 177 400)	(2 471 100)
	Total, income sections 2 and 3	**44 933 000**	**(5 761 800)**	**39 171 200**
	Grand total	**531 885 700**	**6 824 800**	**538 710 500**

68th plenary meeting
23 December 2016

C

Financing of the appropriations for the year 2017

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the year 2017:

1. Budget appropriations totalling 2,913,264,800 United States dollars and consisting of 2,700,897,200 dollars, being half of the appropriation initially approved for the biennium 2016–2017 by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/249 A of 23 December 2015, the additional amount of 6,925,100 dollars for the biennium appropriated in its resolutions 70/248 B of 1 April 2016 and 70/248 C of 17 June 2016, and 205,422,500 dollars, being the increase approved in paragraph 1 of resolution A above, shall be financed in accordance with regulations 3.1 and 3.2 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,[1] as follows:

(*a*) 136,734,900 dollars, consisting of:

(i) 22,466,500 dollars, being half of the estimated income other than staff assessment income approved for the biennium in its resolutions 70/249 B of 23 December 2015, 70/248 B and 70/248 C;

(ii) 5,761,800 dollars, being the decrease in income other than staff assessment income approved for the biennium in paragraph 1 of resolution B above;

(iii) 120,030,200 dollars, being the surplus resulting from the final expenditure for the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

(*b*) 2,776,529,900 dollars, being the assessment on Member States in accordance with its resolution 70/245 of 23 December 2015 on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations;

2. There shall be set off against the assessment on Member States, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund in the total amount of 254,240,100 dollars, consisting of:

(*a*) 243,207,400 dollars, being half of the estimated staff assessment income approved by the Assembly in its resolution 70/249 B;

(*b*) 537,900 dollars, being the estimated increase in income for staff assessment approved by the Assembly in its resolutions 70/248 B and 70/248 C;

(*c*) 12,586,600 dollars, being the estimated increase in income from staff assessment approved by the Assembly in paragraph 1 of resolution B above;

(*d*) 2,091,800 dollars, being the decrease in income from staff assessment for the biennium 2014–2015, compared with the revised estimates approved by the Assembly in its resolution 70/240 B of 23 December 2015.

68th plenary meeting
23 December 2016

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[1] ST/SGB/2013/4.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
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Agenda item 133

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 23 December 2016

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/71/717)*]

71/274. Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2018–2019

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit, in off-budget years, an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2018–2019[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

3. *Reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

4. *Also reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(*a*) A preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(*b*) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(*c*) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

[1] A/71/428.
[2] A/71/634.

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(*d*) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

5. *Further reaffirms* that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General should reflect resource levels commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation;

6. *Stresses* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of 5,395.0 million United States dollars at revised 2016–2017 rates, inclusive of a provision of 1,124.4 million dollars for special political missions;

8. *Decides* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

9. *Also decides* that the priorities for the biennium 2018–2019 shall be the following:

(*a*) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(*b*) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(*c*) Development of Africa;

(*d*) Promotion of human rights;

(*e*) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(*f*) Promotion of justice and international law;

(*g*) Disarmament;

(*h*) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 9 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019;

11. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely, at 40.46 million dollars, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

68th plenary meeting
23 December 2016

1. *Decides* to declare 12 December the International Day of Neutrality;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and individuals, to mark the International Day of Neutrality by means of education and the holding of events aimed at enhancing the knowledge of the public in this field;

3. *Proposes* that the Secretary-General should continue to cooperate closely with neutral States, with a view to implementing the principles of preventive diplomacy and using those principles in their mediation activities;

4. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions.

69th plenary meeting
2 February 2017

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 February 2017

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 19 (*c*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 2 February 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/L.54 and Add.1)*]

71/276. Report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcome of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, entitled "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030", contained in annex II to its resolution 69/283 of 3 June 2015, and the recommendation of the Conference that the General Assembly establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group for the development of a set of possible indicators to measure global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and that the outcome of the work of the group be submitted to the Assembly for its consideration and adoption,

Recalling also its resolution 69/284 of 3 June 2015, in which the General Assembly decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction,

Expressing its appreciation to those countries that have provided financial support for the participation of developing countries in the meetings of the working group through voluntary contributions made to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction trust fund, and expressing its gratitude to the Chair of the working group for guiding the work of the group,

1. *Acknowledges* the conclusion of the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction, and welcomes its report;[1]

2. *Endorses* the recommendations contained in sections IV and V of the report.[2]

69th plenary meeting
2 February 2017

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[1] A/71/644 and Corr.1.
[2] Ibid., sects. IV and V.

17-01643 (E)

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General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 February 2017

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 30

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 2 February 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/L.55 and Add.1)*]

71/277. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds continues to be a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate Governments and the illicit traffic in and proliferation of armaments, especially small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing also the devastating impact of conflicts fuelled by the trade in conflict diamonds on the peace, safety and security of people in affected countries, and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts,

Noting the negative impact of such conflicts on regional stability and the obligations placed upon States by the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security, and recognizing that continued action to curb the trade in conflict diamonds is imperative,

Noting with appreciation that the Kimberley Process, as an international initiative led by Participants, has pursued its deliberations on an inclusive basis involving concerned stakeholders, including producing, exporting and importing States, the diamond industry and civil society, as well as applicant States and international organizations,

Recalling that the elimination of conflict diamonds from legitimate trade is the primary objective of the Kimberley Process, and stressing the need to continue its activities in order to achieve this objective,

Welcoming the important contribution of the Kimberley Process, which was initiated by African diamond-producing countries, and calling for the consistent implementation of commitments made by Kimberley Process Participants and the diamond industry and civil society organizations, as observers,

Acknowledging the successful role that the Kimberley Process has played, in the last 14 years, in stemming the flow of conflict diamonds and the significant developmental impact it has had in improving the lives of people dependent on the

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trade in diamonds, and noting that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, in looking towards the future, committed to continue to ensure that the Kimberley Process remains relevant as a credible tool in curbing the illegal flow of rough diamonds,

Acknowledging also that the diamond sector is an important catalyst for promoting economic and social development, which are necessary for poverty reduction and meeting the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals in many producing countries, particularly in developing countries,

Recalling its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, committed itself to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and expressed its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Bearing in mind the positive benefits of the legitimate diamond trade to producing countries, and underlining the need for continued international action to prevent the problem of conflict diamonds from negatively affecting the trade in legitimate diamonds, which makes a critical contribution to the economies of the producing, exporting and importing States,

Noting that the vast majority of rough diamonds produced in the world are from legitimate sources,

Noting also that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process thanked the 2016 Chair of the Kimberley Process for organizing the special forum on synthetic diamonds as an information session and the discussion regarding non-disclosure of synthetic diamonds held in the margins of the Kimberley Process meetings,

Recalling the Charter and all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council related to conflict diamonds, and determined to contribute to and support the implementation of the measures provided for in those resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1459 (2003) of 28 January 2003, in which the Council strongly supported the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme[1] as a valuable contribution against trafficking in conflict diamonds,

Noting with satisfaction that the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme continues to have a positive impact in reducing the opportunity for conflict diamonds to play a role in fuelling armed conflict and helps to protect legitimate trade and ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds,

Acknowledging that lessons learned from the Kimberley Process may be useful for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in its consideration of the countries included in its agenda, as appropriate,

[1] See A/57/489.

Recalling its resolutions 55/56 of 1 December 2000, 56/263 of 13 March 2002, 57/302 of 15 April 2003, 58/290 of 14 April 2004, 59/144 of 15 December 2004, 60/182 of 20 December 2005, 61/28 of 4 December 2006, 62/11 of 26 November 2007, 63/134 of 11 December 2008, 64/109 of 11 December 2009, 65/137 of 16 December 2010, 66/252 of 25 January 2012, 67/135 of 18 December 2012, 68/128 of 18 December 2013, 69/136 of 12 December 2014 and 70/252 of 22 January 2016, in which it called for the development and implementation as well as a periodic review of proposals for a simple, effective and pragmatic international certification scheme for rough diamonds,

Welcoming, in this regard, the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in such a way as not to impede the legitimate trade in diamonds or impose an undue burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, nor hinder the development of the diamond industry,

Welcoming also the decision of the 54 Kimberley Process Participants, representing 81 countries, including the 28 States members of the European Union represented by the European Commission, to address the problem of conflict diamonds by participating in the Kimberley Process and implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

Noting the outcomes of the fourteenth plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, hosted in Dubai by the United Arab Emirates from 13 to 17 November 2016,[2]

Noting also that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process recognized the efforts of the Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2016 and took note of his proposals to develop a methodology on the valuation of rough diamonds, establish a permanent secretariat for the Kimberley Process and establish a Civil Society Coalition fund, and emphasizing that the plenary meeting looked forward to continued discussion of those proposals under the incoming Chair,

Expressing satisfaction that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process noted the progress made in better understanding the challenges faced by some Kimberley Process Participants in ensuring that their rough diamonds were valued appropriately, and recognizing that undervaluation or overvaluation undermines the accuracy of the information on Kimberley Process certificates,

Noting that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process expressed appreciation for the special forums on valuation hosted by the Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2016, and acknowledging that the plenary meeting took note of the draft study prepared by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on the challenges faced by some producing countries in the valuation of rough diamonds and thanked the subgroup on valuation of the Working Group of Diamond Experts for its work in mapping country approaches to the valuation of rough diamonds, which provided a comprehensive reference for all Kimberley Process Participants,

Conscious that a distinct but closely related issue noted by the plenary meeting as requiring attention in its own right was that of ensuring that artisanal miners received fair value for their stones and that any further work to improve valuation practices should be accessible and aim to benefit artisanal miners,

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[2] See A/71/665.

Welcoming the important contribution to fulfilling the purposes of the Kimberley Process that has been made and continues to be made by civil society organizations from across Participant countries, and the diamond industry, in particular the World Diamond Council, which represents all aspects of the diamond industry in the Kimberley Process, to assist international efforts to stop the trade in conflict diamonds,

Welcoming also the voluntary self-regulation initiatives for the diamond industry announced by the World Diamond Council, and recognizing that a system of such voluntary self-regulation contributes, as described in the Interlaken Declaration of 5 November 2002 on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds,[1] to ensuring the effectiveness of national systems of internal control for rough diamonds,

Recognizing that State sovereignty should be fully respected and that the principles of equality, mutual benefits and consensus should be adhered to,

Recognizing also that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into effect on 1 January 2003, will be credible only if all Participants have the requisite national legislation coupled with effective and credible internal systems of control designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds in the chain of producing, exporting and importing rough diamonds within their own territories and across their borders, while taking into account that differences in production methods and trading practices, as well as differences in the institutional controls thereof, may require different approaches to meeting minimum standards, and encouraging all Participants to work towards overall compliance with the Kimberley Process standards,

Welcoming the efforts to improve the normative framework of the Kimberley Process through the elaboration of new rules and procedural norms to regulate the activities of its working bodies, Participants and observers and the streamlining of the procedures for preparation and adoption of the decisions and documents of the Kimberley Process, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

1. *Reaffirms its strong and continuing support* for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme[1] and the Kimberley Process as a whole;

2. *Recognizes* that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme helps to ensure the effective implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council containing sanctions on the trade in conflict diamonds and contributes to the prevention of future conflicts fuelled by diamonds, and calls for the full implementation of existing Council measures targeting the illicit trade in rough diamonds, particularly conflict diamonds which play a role in fuelling conflict;

3. *Also recognizes* the important contributions that the international efforts to address the problem of conflict diamonds, including the Kimberley Process, have made to the settlement of conflicts and the consolidation of peace in Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone;

4. *Notes* the efforts to further strengthen implementation of the Kimberley Process, including efforts to continue to examine the application of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme requirements in cross-border Internet sales;

5. *Also notes* the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 15 May 2003 granting a waiver with respect to the measures taken to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, effective from 1 January

2003 to 31 December 2006, the decision of the General Council of 17 November 2006 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2012, and the decision of the General Council of 11 December 2012 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2018;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Kimberley Process submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/252,[2] and congratulates the Participants, industry and observers involved in the Kimberley Process for contributing to the development, implementation and monitoring of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

7. *Acknowledges* the progress made by Kimberley Process working groups, Participants and observers during 2016 in fulfilling the objectives set by the Kimberley Process to strengthen implementation of the peer review system, increase the transparency and accuracy of statistics, promote research into the traceability of diamonds, promote inclusiveness by broadening the level of involvement by Governments, industry and civil society in the Kimberley Process, foster a sense of ownership by Participants and observers, improve information and communication flows and enhance the capacity of the Kimberley Process to respond to emerging challenges;

8. *Notes* that the annual reporting process on Kimberley Process Certification Scheme implementation is the main comprehensive and regular source of information on the implementation of the Kimberley Process provided by Participants, and calls upon Participants to submit consistent and substantive annual reports in order to conform to this requirement;

9. *Expresses appreciation* to Belarus, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Turkey and the United Republic of Tanzania for receiving review visits in 2016, and welcomes their commitment to continuously open their certification systems to reviews and improvements;

10. *Acknowledges* the expressions of interest to host review visits by Botswana, Brazil, Ghana, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mauritius, Namibia, Norway, Panama and Togo, and calls upon other Participants to continue to invite review visits and to participate actively under the Kimberley Process peer review system;

11. *Also acknowledges* the efforts of the Kimberley Process to strengthen implementation and enforcement and, in particular, to ensure the coordination of its actions in relation to the occurrence of fraudulent certificates, to apply vigilance and ensure the detection and reporting of shipments of suspicious origin and to facilitate the exchange of information in cases of infringement, and acknowledges with appreciation the increased level of collaboration among Participants and with the World Customs Organization in this matter;

12. *Stresses* that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential, encourages Participants to contribute to the work of the Kimberley Process by seeking membership, participating actively in the Certification Scheme and complying with its undertakings, and acknowledges the importance of the increased involvement of civil society organizations in the Kimberley Process;

13. *Calls upon* the Kimberley Process Participants to continue to articulate and improve rules and procedures to further enhance the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes with satisfaction the systematization of the work of the Kimberley Process with respect to developing

transparent and uniform rules and procedures and improving the mechanism for consultations and coordination within the Kimberley Process;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the willingness of Kimberley Process Participants and observers to support and provide technical assistance to those Participants experiencing temporary difficulties in complying with the requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of the Kimberley Process in promoting economic development, particularly in the artisanal and small-scale diamond mining sector, and encourages an increased focus on issues related to development, including through the work of the Diamond Development Initiative, within the framework of the Kimberley Process;

16. *Welcomes* the further steps taken by the Mano River Union countries, namely, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, to implement the regional approach initiative highlighted by the Security Council in its resolution 2153 (2014), in which the Council lifted the embargo on the export of rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire, and also welcomes the continuous support to the Mano River Union countries provided by the technical team of the Working Group on Monitoring and the Friends of the Mano River Union group, in particular ongoing efforts to formalize the role of the secretariat of the Mano River Union and involve other implementing partners and/or technical assistance providers;

17. *Notes* that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process in 2016 acknowledged the progress made by the Central African Republic with regard to the implementation of the administrative decision and operational framework for the resumption of exports of rough diamonds from that country, welcomed the decisions of the Kimberley Process monitoring team to declare the subprefectures of Berbérati, Boda, Carnot and Nola "compliant zones" and encouraged the Kimberley Process authorities of the Central African Republic to continue to implement both the administrative decision and the recommendations contained in the report of the Kimberley Process monitoring team on its field missions to Berbérati, Boda, Carnot, Gadzi and Nola in March and August 2016, to continue to implement enhanced vigilance measures and to ensure the traceability of rough diamonds from all four "compliant zones";

18. *Also notes* that the plenary meeting took note of a recommendation from the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic established pursuant to the Security Council in its resolution 2127 (2013), whose mandate had been extended by the Council in its resolution 2262 (2016), to the tripartite follow-up committee of the Central African Republic and the Kimberley Process monitoring team in order to ensure continued monitoring of the freedom of movement in all compliant zones, consistent with proposed benchmarks;

19. *Further notes* that the plenary meeting welcomed the resumption of the development assistance project of the United States of America in the Central African Republic aimed at enhancing the capacity of that country and assisting it with the implementation of the administrative decision and operational framework for the resumption of exports of rough diamonds, and notes that the plenary meeting encouraged other Participants and observers to consider providing complementary technical assistance;

20. *Notes* that the plenary meeting welcomed the initiative taken by the Central African Republic and its neighbouring Kimberley Process Participants, namely, Cameroon, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to ensure

cooperation on Kimberley Process Certification Scheme compliance issues with a regional dimension and encouraged the Central African Republic and the Kimberley Process monitoring team to continue to work closely together with relevant United Nations actors, notably the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic, as well as the international community;

21. *Expresses its appreciation* to the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process for welcoming the resumption of participation by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the Kimberley Process, and notes that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had committed to hosting a review visit no later than six months after the resumption of exports, in which Ukraine would be invited to participate, as agreed in the 2016 final communiqué of the plenary meeting;

22. *Notes with satisfaction* that the plenary meeting encouraged Gabon to invite, before the 2017 intersessional meeting, an expert mission to the country in order for it to begin its process of admission to the Kimberley Process;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the role played by the Kimberley Process Administrative Support Mechanism, hosted by the World Diamond Council in 2016;

24. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the Kimberley Process to continue dialogue on decision-making and on the definition of "conflict diamonds", in accordance with the final communiqué of the plenary meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2013;[3]

25. *Also reaffirms* the importance of the tripartite nature of the Kimberley Process, notes that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process noted that the Civil Society Coalition had decided not to attend Kimberley Process meetings in 2016 owing to a number of concerns and that the plenary expressed its desire for broad Civil Society Coalition participation in the future, welcomes in this regard that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process recognized the important work that civil society performed, expressed the intention to consider ways to support its robust participation and acknowledged the proposal of the 2016 Chair of the Kimberley Process to establish a multi-donor trust fund or similar mechanism acceptable to all Participants and observers, and welcomes the acknowledgement by the plenary that representatives of the following civil society organizations attended the plenary meeting as guests of the 2016 Chair:

(*a*) Organisation centrafricaine pour le développement durable;

(*b*) Mines arts et ressources centrafricaines;

(*c*) Kimberley Process Follow-Up Committee in Berbérati;

(*d*) Association des femmes centrafricaines pour le développement durable;

(*e*) Good Governance Africa;

26. *Notes* that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process welcomed a proposal from the 2016 Chair of the Kimberley Process aimed at strengthening the structure of the Kimberley Process through the establishment of a Kimberley Process secretariat that could support the continuity and efficiency of the Kimberley Process, and stresses that the plenary meeting decided that the upcoming review cycle provided an opportunity to discuss means of improving the Kimberley Process;

[3] See A/68/949.

27. *Acknowledges* that the above-mentioned proposal states that such a secretariat could potentially help to facilitate progress in advancing the goals and objectives of the Kimberley Process and, among other possibilities, serve as a sustained presence for maintaining contacts in countries of concern, support the Chair of the Kimberley Process in interactions with government officials and other stakeholders and assist the Kimberley Process with regard to Participants who had been suspended and were resuming participation in the Kimberley Process, and notes in that regard that the plenary meeting looked forward to possible future ways to enhance cooperation with the United Nations system;

28. *Recognizes* that the plenary meeting noted that, for those countries seeking greater confidence with respect to their rough diamonds being valued accurately, a consistent methodology, building on comprehensive training and technical assistance for government officials, would be beneficial;

29. *Acknowledges* that the plenary noted that, according to the Chair of the Kimberley Process and some Participants of the special forums on valuation hosted by the Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2016, such a methodology might comprise several elements to be used by Kimberley Process Participants, including using standardized preparation and sorting protocols for rough diamonds in preparation for valuation, drawing on contemporary transacted prices for comparable rough diamonds as much as possible and, where that was not possible, potentially developing a methodology that was based on deriving the value of rough diamonds from contemporary transactions, that was transparent in approach and objective and that drew upon industry practices, and notes in this regard that the World Diamond Council, as an observer, reiterated that all current and future discussions must observe competition and antitrust law;

30. *Notes* that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process requested that the subgroup on valuation of the Working Group of Diamond Experts invite the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to collaborate with the Kimberley Process to take this work forward, consistent with rules and procedures;

31. *Welcomes* the fact that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process noted the work of the committee on rules and procedures concerning the engagement of the Kimberley Process with external organizations and the committee's expectation to continue further discussions on this issue;

32. *Encourages* further improvement in enforcement of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes the new efforts made to increase information-sharing and collaboration in enforcement;

33. *Notes* that the Working Group on Statistics of the Kimberley Process welcomed further discussions on the study of blockchain technology within the framework of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

34. *Acknowledges with great appreciation* the important contribution that the United Arab Emirates, as Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2016, has made towards curbing the trade in conflict diamonds, and welcomes the selection of Australia as the Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2017, the European Union as the Vice-Chair for 2017 and the Chair for 2018, and India as the incoming Vice-Chair for 2018 and the Chair for 2019;

35. *Requests* the Chair of the Kimberley Process to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the Kimberley Process;

36. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict".

69th plenary meeting
2 February 2017